

Amendments to the Claims

The current status of the claims is as follows:

Claims 1-25 (Canceled)

26. (New) A collection device comprising:
a fluid-holding vessel comprising an open end, a closed end and a side wall having an inner surface;
a specimen retrieval device comprising a swab having a handle member, the specimen retrieval device being contained within the vessel; and
a pierceable cap fixed onto the open end of the vessel, wherein the cap positions the specimen retrieval device along the inner surface of the vessel, such that the specimen retrieval device does not significantly interfere with the movement of a fluid transfer device into or out of the collection device.
27. (New) The collection device of claim 26, wherein the handle member includes a score line to facilitate removing a portion of the handle prior to fixing the cap onto the open end of the vessel.
28. (New) The collection device of claim 26, wherein the fluid transfer device is a plastic pipette tip.
29. (New) The collection device of claim 28, wherein the cap can be pierced by the pipette tip with the application of less than 8 pounds force.

30. (New) The collection device of claim 26, wherein the cap further comprises a wick for inhibiting the release of an aerosol or bubbles from the collection device.

31. (New) The collection device of claim 30, wherein the wick is a pile fabric.

32. (New) The collection device of claim 30, wherein the cap includes a seal for retaining the wick within the cap.

33. (New) The collection device of claim 26, wherein the cap has a generally conical inner wall.

34. (New) The collection device of claim 33, wherein the conical inner wall includes a plurality of radially extending striations.

35. (New) The collection device of claim 26, wherein the cap and the vessel include mated threads and the cap is screwed onto the open end of the vessel.

36. (New) The collection device of claim 26, wherein the cap and the vessel are each formed from a plastic resin.

37. (New) A collection device comprising:
a fluid-holding vessel comprising an open end, a closed end and a side wall having an inner surface;
a specimen retrieval contained within the vessel; and

a pierceable cap fixed onto the open end of the vessel, wherein the cap positions the specimen retrieval device along the inner surface of the vessel, such that the specimen retrieval device does not significantly interfere with the movement of a plastic pipette tip into or out of the collection device.

38. (New) The collection device of claim 37, wherein the specimen retrieval device comprises a swab having a handle member, and wherein the handle member includes a score line to facilitate removing a portion of the handle prior to fixing the cap onto the open end of the vessel.

39. (New) The collection device of claim 37, wherein the cap can be pierced by the pipette tip with the application of less than 8 pounds force.

40. (New) The collection device of claim 37, wherein the cap further comprises a wick for inhibiting the release of an aerosol or bubbles from the collection device.

41. (New) The collection device of claim 40, wherein the wick is a pile fabric.

42. (New) The collection device of claim 40, wherein the cap includes a seal for retaining the wick within the cap.

43. (New) The collection device of claim 37, wherein the cap has a generally conical inner wall.

44. (New) The collection device of claim 43, wherein the conical inner wall includes a plurality of radially extending striations.

45. (New) The collection device of claim 37, wherein the cap and the vessel include mated threads and the cap is screwed onto the open end of the vessel.

46. (New) The collection device of claim 37, wherein the cap and the vessel are each formed from a plastic resin.

47. (New) A collection device comprising:
a fluid-holding vessel comprising an open end, a closed end and a side wall having an inner surface;
a specimen retrieval contained within the vessel; and
a pierceable cap fixed onto the open end of the vessel, wherein the cap positions the specimen retrieval device along the inner surface of the vessel, such that the specimen retrieval device does not significantly interfere with the movement of a fluid transfer device into or out of the collection device, and wherein the cap comprises a wick for inhibiting the release of an aerosol or bubbles from the collection device.

48. (New) The collection device of claim 48, wherein the specimen retrieval device is a swab having a handle member, and wherein the handle member includes a score line to facilitate removing a portion of the handle prior to fixing the cap onto the open end of the vessel.

49. (New) The collection device of claim 47, wherein the fluid transfer device is a plastic pipette tip, and wherein the cap can be pierced by the pipette tip with the application of less than 8 pounds force.

50. (New) The collection device of claim 47, wherein the wick is a pile fabric.

51. (New) The collection device of claim 47, wherein the cap includes a seal for retaining the wick within the cap.

52. (New) The collection device of claim 47, wherein the cap has a generally conical inner wall.

53. (New) The collection device of claim 52, wherein the conical inner wall includes a plurality of radially extending striations.

54. (New) The collection device of claim 47, wherein the cap and the vessel include mated threads and the cap is screwed onto the open end of the vessel.

55. (New) The collection device of claim 47, wherein the cap and the vessel are each formed from a plastic resin.